Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) System for enabling the cancellation of a previously-sent e-mail, comprising a data transmission network, wherein a plurality of users are connected to said network, each of said users being able as a sender to send an e-mail over said network to a plurality of users as recipients connected to said network, and wherein a message transfer agent (MTA) is associated with each of said users for sending the e-mail when said user acts as a sender and delivering the e-mail when said user acts as a recipient,

wherein each MTA includes a cancel mailbox for transmitting a cancellation message to said recipients when the user associated with said MTA is a sender wanting to cancel a previously-sent e-mail or for managing the cancellation of e-mails in the mailbox of the user associated with said MTA upon receiving said cancellation message from said sender when this user is a recipient,

wherein the cancel mailbox of each MTA is configured to cancel the e-mail sent to the recipients only when none of the recipients has read the e-mail, and is configured to not delete the e-mail when any of said recipients has read said e-mail.

2. (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein there is at least an intermediate MTA between the MTA associated with said sender and said MTA associated with said recipients, said intermediate MTA including a cancel mailbox in charge of transmitting a cancellation message to said MTAs associated to said recipients upon receiving said cancellation message from said MTA associated with said sender.

3. (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein the cancel mailbox in each said MTA is associated with a cancellation agent for managing the cancellation of said e-mail, said cancellation agent building a delete process table giving a status of said e-mail during the cancellation process managed by said cancellation agent.

4. (Previously Presented) Process for canceling a previously-sent e-mail in a system comprising a data transmission network, wherein a plurality of users are connected to said network, each of said users being able as a sender to forward an e-mail over said network to a plurality of users as a recipients connected to said network, and wherein a message transfer agent (MTA) is associated with each of said users for sending the e-mail when said user acts as a sender and delivering the e-mail when said user acts as a recipient;

said process comprising:

a) sending from said sender a message for deleting said e-mail to a cancel mailbox included in said sender MTA,

b) sending from said cancel mailbox included in the sender MTA a message to a cancel mailbox included in each MTA respectively associated with the recipients being addressed in said e-mail in order to inform the recipients that said e-mail has to be deleted if it is not yet read,

c) sending from said cancel mailboxes of said MTAs respectively associated with said recipients a message requesting that said e-mail has to be masked only if it has not yet been read, and

d) deleting said masked e-mail only when none of said recipients has read said e-mail, and not deleting the masked e-mail when any of said recipients has read said e-mail.

5. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 4, wherein a cancel mailbox of a MTA associated with each recipient sends back an acknowledgement message of a first type if said recipient has not yet read said e-mail.

6. (Original) Process according to claim 5, wherein the cancel mailbox of the MTA associated with several recipients sends back a first type message to said sender MTA if none of these recipients has already read said e-mail.

7. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 6, wherein said step d) comprises sending from the cancel mailbox of said sender MTA a message to the cancel mailboxes of the MTAs associated with all the recipients addressed in said e-mail requesting each cancel mailbox to delete said e-mail.

8. (Original) Process according to claim 7, wherein said step d) further comprises the step of sending a message from said cancel mailboxes of the MTAs associated with all recipients to the recipient mailboxes in order to delete said e-mail.

9. (Original) Process according to claim 7, wherein the cancel mailbox of said sender MTA sends a first type acknowledgment message to the mailbox of said sender to confirm that said e-mail has been deleted.

10. (Original) Process according to claim 4, wherein a cancel mailbox of a MTA associated with a recipient sends back an acknowledgment message of a second type if said recipient has already read said e-mail.

11. (Original) Process according to claim 10, wherein the cancel mailbox of the MTA associated with several recipients sends back a second type message to said sender MTA if at least one of these recipients has already read said e-mail.

12. (Original) Process according to claim 11, wherein said step d) comprises sending from the cancel mailbox of said sender MTA a message to the cancel mailboxes of the MTAs associated with the recipients who have not yet read said e-mail requesting not to delete said e-mail.

13. (Original) Process according to claim 12, wherein said step d) further comprises the step of sending a message from said cancel mailboxes of the MTAs associated with the recipients who have not yet read said e-mail to the mailboxes of said recipients in order not to delete said e-mail.

14. (Original) Process according to claim 12, wherein the cancel mailbox of said sender MTA sends a second type acknowledgment message to the mailbox of said sender to confirm that said e-mail has not been deleted.

15. (Original) Process according to claim 4, wherein there is at least one intermediate MTA between said sender MTA and the MTAs associated with said recipients, said intermediate MTA being adapted to repeat any message received from the cancel mailbox of the sender MTA or from the cancel mailbox of any other MTA.

16. (Original) Process according to claim 15, wherein at least one of said recipients is addressed by an alias, the cancel mailbox of the MTA receiving said alias being adapted to send a request to an associated domain name server (DNS) in order to obtain the address corresponding to said alias.